

FEBRUARY
1878

TO THE MINISTERS AND SESSIONS

—OF—

Presbyterian Churches in North Carolina.

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OFFICE OF THE NORTH CAROLINA PRESBYTERIAN,

WILMINGTON, December, 1878.

DEAR BRETHREN,—In presenting to you the claims of the NORTH CAROLINA PRESBYTERIAN, we beg your attention to the following considerations:

You will agree with us that the interest felt in any business enterprise, and in general the success it attains, are proportioned to the knowledge possessed of its operations and designs. The principle is applicable to the Church as well.

We believe we may say that in no other Synod, unless possibly the Synod of Texas, are Presbyterians so fully informed as to the details of the work of the Church in their immediate bounds, and beyond them. The NORTH CAROLINA PRESBYTERIAN, in imparting this information to its readers, as it does by the publication in full of Abstracts of Minutes of Synod and the Presbyteries, with accompanying Reports and other papers—we say the PRESBYTERIAN thus so informs our people as to produce a love for the Church and its work, at home and at large, with the further result of increased contributions and greater practical effort in every department of service. The various courts of the Church endorse this view by requesting the publications.

Moreover, you will have noted that while we publish all items of interest concerning our noble Church, which can be gathered from exchanges (that we may not detract from a general but earnest feeling of brotherhood), we, through the kindness of brethren, are enabled to give the fullest and freshest items of news from our own churches; and so within our Synod we come to regard ourselves as one family, separated indeed, but enjoying frequent social, albeit not personal intercourse.

Our contributions, unexcelled, if equalled, by those of any other papers, tend directly to the above result, as being in the main from members of our Synod. Our editorials, too, are from the pens of our immediate brethren, lay and clerical.

Of other departments of the paper we forbear to speak, for praise of the paper is not our purpose. Our object is to impress upon you that the NORTH CAROLINA PRESBYTERIAN is an essential aid to the Synod of North Carolina, in its work for the Great Head of the Church.

And now, brethren, we call your attention to the fact that our paper, in thus devoting itself in such large measure specifically to the work of the Synod, does, to some extent, run counter to the popular taste, and restricts our field to the State, and is thus at a serious disadvantage as against papers not so employed. We would have the paper, as it is in truth and in name, the *Presbyterian of North Carolina*—and, may we add, *for North Carolinians*.

A few words personal. Your sense of justice revolts at the idea of one individual bearing any great proportion of loss that may be consequent upon benefiting the whole Synod, as above indicated.

We ask no subsidy. We ask your positive influence and hearty practical efforts in bringing the claims of our paper before the people, with a view to placing the PRESBYTERIAN in every family of our communion. Further, to this end, we most earnestly request that each Session will—if no agent is now acting—appoint an efficient agent to actively canvass for the paper, and that the Session will report the appointment to the undersigned promptly. In all cases, we crave that you will extend such aid or counsel as may be necessary.

In conclusion, I am aware that I am asking much, but ask in full assurance, as being not unmindful of the numerous and unrequited kindnesses you have bestowed in the past, and which shall ever command my heartfelt gratitude.

Respectfully,

JOHN McLAURIN,

Publisher North Carolina Presbyterian.

